

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a subterranean zone, comprising:  
forming an entry well from the surface, the entry well having a substantially vertical portion;  
forming a drainage ~~wells~~ well from the entry well to a subterranean zone, ~~each~~ the drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;  
forming ~~one or more~~ an articulated ~~wells~~ well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, ~~at least one~~ the articulated well intersecting ~~at least one~~ the drainage well at a junction proximate the subterranean zone; and  
forming a drainage pattern through the articulated well, the drainage pattern coupled to the junction and operable to conduct fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction.
2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising forming an enlarged cavity in ~~each~~ the drainage well proximate the subterranean zone.
3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising inserting a guide tube bundle into the entry well and forming ~~the one or more~~ of the drainage ~~wells and well~~ or the articulated ~~wells~~ well using the guide tube bundle.
4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
forming a second drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion; and

forming a second articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second articulated well intersecting the second drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone,

wherein the ~~one or more~~ drainage wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising: forming a second drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion; and

forming a second articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second articulated well intersecting the second drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone,

wherein the ~~one or more~~ articulated wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.

6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising: forming a second drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;

forming a second articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second articulated well intersecting the second drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone ~~wherein two articulated wells and two drainage wells are formed.~~

7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 ~~6~~, further comprising: forming a third drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the third drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;

forming a third articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the third articulated well intersecting the third drainage well at a third junction proximate the subterranean zone ~~wherein three articulated wells and three drainage wells are formed.~~

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein forming the drainage pattern comprises forming a main well bore and a plurality of lateral well bores extending from the main well bore.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the lateral wells are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising removing resources from the subterranean zone through the drainage pattern to the surface.

12. (Currently amended) A system for accessing a subterranean zone from an entry well, comprising:

an entry well extending from the surface, the entry well having a substantially vertical portion;

~~one or more~~ a drainage wells well extending from the entry well to a subterranean zone, ~~each the~~ the drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;

~~one or more~~ an articulated wells well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, ~~at least one the~~ the articulated well intersecting ~~at least one the~~ the drainage well at a junction proximate the subterranean zone;

an inlet of a downhole pumping unit residing in the junction; and

a drainage pattern coupled to the junction and operable to conduct fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction.

13. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, further comprising an enlarged cavity formed in ~~each the~~ the drainage well proximate the subterranean zone.

14. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, further comprising a guide tube bundle inserted into the entry well for forming ~~the one or more of the drainage wells and well or the articulated wells well~~.

15. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, further comprising:  
a second drainage well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion; and

a second articulated well intersecting the drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone,

wherein the ~~one or more~~ drainage wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.

16. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, further comprising:  
a second drainage well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the  
second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion; and  
a second articulated well intersecting the drainage well at a second junction proximate the  
subterranean zone,

wherein the ~~one or more~~ articulated wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.

17. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, further comprising:  
a second drainage well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the  
second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion; and  
a second articulated well intersecting the drainage well at a second junction proximate the  
subterranean zone wherein two articulated wells and two drainage wells are formed.

18. (Original) The system of Claim ~~17~~ 12, further comprising:  
a third drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the third drainage well  
comprising at least one slanted portion;  
a third articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the third articulated  
well intersecting the third drainage well at a third junction proximate the subterranean zone  
~~wherein three articulated wells and three drainage wells are formed.~~

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the drainage pattern comprises a main well bore and a plurality of lateral well bores extending from the main well bore.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the lateral wells are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

22. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a subterranean zone from an entry well, comprising:

forming an entry well from the surface, the entry well having a substantially vertical portion;

forming a ~~plurality of drainage wells~~ well from the entry well to a subterranean zone, ~~each~~ the drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;

forming an enlarged cavity in ~~each of the drainage wells~~ well proximate the subterranean zone;

forming a ~~plurality of an~~ articulated ~~wells~~ well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, ~~each~~ the articulated well intersecting the enlarged cavity of a ~~disparate~~ the drainage well at a junction proximate the subterranean zone; and

forming a drainage pattern through the articulated well, the drainage pattern coupled to the junction and operable to conduct fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction, the drainage pattern extending from the junction into the target zone and comprises a set of lateral wells extending from a main well bore.

23. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a subterranean zone, comprising:  
forming an entry well from the surface;  
forming ~~one or more~~ a drainage wells well from the entry well to a subterranean zone;  
forming ~~one or more~~ an articulated wells well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, ~~at least one~~ the articulated well intersecting ~~at least one~~ the drainage well at a junction proximate the subterranean zone; and  
forming a drainage bore through the articulated well, the drainage bore coupled to the junction and operable to conduct fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction.

24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, further comprising forming an enlarged cavity in ~~each~~ the drainage well proximate the subterranean zone.

25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, further comprising:  
forming a second drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone; and  
forming a second articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the  
second articulated well intersecting the second drainage well at a second junction proximate the  
subterranean zone,

wherein the ~~one or more~~ drainage wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well

26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, further comprising:  
forming a second drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone;  
forming a second articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the  
second articulated well intersecting the second drainage well at a second junction proximate the  
subterranean zone ~~wherein two articulated wells and two drainage wells are formed.~~

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, further comprising removing resources from the subterranean zone through the drainage pattern to the surface.